

Claude Debussy  
(1862 – 1918)

24 Préludes for Piano

Concert offer

Gilbert De Greeve received his first music lessons from his father Jos De Greeve (who was a violinist) and studied at the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp, notably with Eugène Traey, Jacqueline Fontyn and Jan Decadt, where he majored in both Performance and Composition. He went on studying in the USA, among others meeting with Rudolf Serkin, Eugene Ormandy and Leonard Pearlman.

His artistic activities, performing, giving master classes and lecturing, are bringing him all over the globe. In the past 40 years he has given numerous concerts, made radio and television recordings and has given master classes in piano, chamber music, Lied interpretation/accompaniment and composition in the five continents. He is also much in demand as a lecturer on several topics.

At the age of 25 he became one of the youngest Professors ever at the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp and Director of the State Music Academy of the same city, a school which he developed from its foundation in 1970 into a major institution with more than 4.200 students.

As soloist, in Chamber Music and as an accompanist, he is known for his striking interpretations. A critic formulated it once as follows: *“...throughout the recital the playing was non-demonstrative, totally under control, but with a highly individual interpretation which was refreshing... ..Some pianists consider Chopin’s works to be an invitation to show off their technical virtuosity and to thump the piano into submission. What we miss is the poetry and sensitivity of the music. Gilbert De Greeve has virtuosity in great abundance but he used this always at the service of the music. I don’t think I have heard a more gentle and articulate performance of Chopin in recent years...”*

Among his compositions, to name just a few, are the Lied Cycle *Chamber Music* (36 Lieder on poems by James Joyce), instrumental music, chamber music, orchestra and choral pieces.

At present Gilbert De Greeve is Director Emeritus of the State Music Academy of Antwerp and Professor Emeritus of the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp. He is also Immediate Past-President of the International Kodály Society, based in Budapest, Hungary.

## Claude Debussy – Preludes for Piano

### Book 1

1. Danseuses de Delphes (Female Dancers of Delphi)
2. Voiles (Sail)
3. Le vent dans la plaine (The Wind upon the Plain)
4. Les sons et les parfums tournent dans l'air du soir (Sounds and Perfumes Swirl in the Evening Air)
5. Les collines d'Anacapri (The Hills of Anacapri)
6. Des pas sur la neige (Footprints on the Snow)
7. Ce qu'a vu le vent d'Ouest (About what the West Wind has Seen)
8. La fille aux cheveux de lin (The Girl with the Flaxen Hair)
9. La sérénade interrompue (The Interrupted Serenade)
10. La cathédrale engloutie (The Sunken Cathedral)
11. La danse de Puck (The Dance of Puck)
12. Minstrels (Minstrels)

### Intermission

### Book 2

1. Brouillards (Mists)
2. Feuilles mortes (Dead Leaves)
3. La puerta del vino (The Wine Gate)
4. Les fées sont d'exquises danseuses (Fairies are Exquisite Dancers)
5. Bruyères (Moors)
6. Général Lavine – excentrique (General Lavine – Eccentric)
7. La terrasse des audiences du clair de lune (The Terrace of the Audience of the Moonshine)
8. Ondine (Water Nymph)
9. Hommage à S. Pickwick Esq. P.P.M.P.C. (Homage to S. Pickwick Esq. P.P.M.P.C.)
10. Canope (Canopic Jar)
11. Les tierces alternées (Alternated Thirds)
12. Feux d'artifice (Fireworks)